JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	outer sheet. Total morned	TIONS ON NEXT THOS O	TIMO PO	DEFENDANTS					
HELEN SWARTZ, Individually									
HELEN SWARTZ, Individually				GRANITE PROPERTIES, a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Miami-Dade County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			<u>, FL</u>	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
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David S. Dessen, Desse Grove, PA 19090, 215.4 Biscayne Blvd, N. Miami,	en, Moses & Rossito, 6 96.2902 & Fuller, Full	500 Easton Rd, Will er & Assoc., 12000		Attorneys (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in C	One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES			
☐ I U.S. Government Plaintiff ### Signature U.S. Government Not a Party			P	FF DEF	Incorporated or Pri		PTF 4	DEF	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HELEN SWARTZ, Individually,

Plaintiff.

V.

Case No.

GRANITE PROPERTIES, a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ, Individually, on her behalf and on behalf of all other mobility-impaired individuals similarly-situated, (sometimes referred to as "Plaintiff"), hereby sues the Defendant, GRANITE PROPERTIES, a Pennsylvania Limited Partnership (sometimes referred to as "Defendant") for Injunctive Relief, and attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. ("ADA").

- 1. Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ, resides in Miami Beach, Florida, in the County of Miami-Dade.
- 2. Defendant's property, The Hilton Garden Inn Lancaster, is located at 101 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA, in the County of Lancaster.
- 3. Venue is properly located in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. The Defendant's property is located in and does business within this judicial district.

- 4. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1331 and 28 USC § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from the Defendant's violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq. See, also, 28 USC § 2201 and § 2202.
- 5. Plaintiff, HELEN SWARTZ is a Florida resident, is sui juris, has multiple sclerosis and relies on the use of an electric scooter to ambulate, as she is mobility impaired. She qualifies as a person with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Helen Swartz was born and raised in New York City and moved to the Philadelphia area in 1978 to attend graduate school. After completion of her studies, she founded a business and resided in the area until 2011. She was active in the business community and has many long-standing relationships that she has maintained throughout the years. She also had two children during those years, through which she knew many people.

Her elder daughter and granddaughter live in the Lancaster area and she often meets them, so that they may enjoy cultural activities, dining and shopping. Ms. Swartz lived in the Lancaster area for many years and has many friends there.

Helen Swartz visited the property which forms the basis of this lawsuit from April 25 through April 26, 2021, and has reservations to return to the property on November 1 through November 2, 2021, to visit family, see friends and to to some of her favorite haunts, as she lived in the area for over ten years. She also wishes to avail herself of the goods and services offered to the public at the property, if the facilities are fully accessible and the barriers to access have been corrected. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers at the subject property, which have impaired her use of the facilities and the amenities offered, and have endangered her safety at the facilities and her ability to access the facilities the property has to offer and use the restrooms.

- 6. The Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers at the subject property, which are enumerated in paragraph 10. The barriers to access at the property have endangered her safety, and adversely affected her ability to use the facilities.
- 7. Defendant owns, leases, leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104. Defendant is responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that the Defendant owns, operates, leases or leases to is known as The Hilton Garden Inn Lancaster, and is located at 101 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA 19103, in the County of Lancaster.
- 8. HELEN SWARTZ has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from the Defendant's non-compliance with the ADA with respect to this property as described but not necessarily limited to the allegations in Paragraph 10 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that she will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by the Defendant. HELEN SWARTZ desires to visit The Hilton Garden Inn Lancaster not only to avail herself of the goods and services available at the property but to assure herself that this property is in compliance with the ADA so that she and others similarly-situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.
- 9. The Defendant has discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying her access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the hotel, as prohibited by 42 USC § 12182 et seq.
- 10. The Defendant has discriminated, and is continuing to discriminate, against the Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, <u>inter alia</u>, have accessible facilities by January 26,

1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant has 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of The Hilton Garden Inn - Lancaster has shown that violations exist. These violations which HELEN SWARTZ personally observed or encountered, and which were verified by an ADA expert, include, but are not limited to:

- a. The hotel does not provide the required amount of compliant accessible guest rooms, and the accessible rooms are not dispersed among the various classes of accommodations. This is in violation of section 224 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This denies to Plaintiff the full and equal opportunity to stay at the subject hotel. 28 CFR §36.302(e)(1).
- b. The accessible features of the facility are not maintained, creating barriers to access for the Plaintiff, as set forth herein, in violation of 28 CFR §36.211.
- c. Some of the accessible parking access aisles do not adjoin an accessible route to the site. This is in violation of section 502.3 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- d. The accessible parking spaces identification signs are too low. This is in violation of section 502.6 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to find the accessible parking spaces.
- e. Some of the accessible parking spaces at the site are located far from the accessible route from parking to an entrance. This is in violation of section 208.3.1 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- f. Accessible seating at the tables and bar inside and outside the hotel are not provided to a person using a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 226 and 902 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to any of the tables and bar around the hotel; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.
- g. The hotel discriminated against the plaintiff by only offering access to the outside patio to able individuals. This is in violation of 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.

- h. Appropriate stairway handrails and handrail extensions are not provided at the stairways inside and outside of the hotel. This is in violation of section 505 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304.
- i. In the accessible guestroom, #103, the hotel posted a notice in the door that is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 308 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.302 & §36.304. This condition showed that the hotel has not trained their staff in how to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when the modifications are necessary to afford goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities,
- j. In the accessible guestroom, #103, the window controls are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 309 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the window controls independently.
- k. In the accessible guestroom, #103, the operable controls for the window require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. This is in violation of sections 309.4 & 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the window controls independently.
- l. In the accessible guestroom, #103, the closet rod is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 811 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to hang up her clothes independently.
- m. In the accessible guestroom, #103, items in the closet are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 811 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the iron and ironing board independently.
- n. In the accessible guestroom, #103, the operable part on the entry door is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of sections 404.2.7 and 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to lock the door independently.
 - In the accessible guestroom, #103, a forward reach is not provided to

access the outlets at the back of the desk. This is in violation of sections 305 and 806 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to use the outlets for her assorted equipment.

- p. In the accessible guestroom, #103, a clear floor space is not provided to access the standing lamp. This is in violation of section 806.2.1 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to access the lamp independently.
- q. In the accessible guestroom, #103, a shower seat is not provided in the roll-in shower. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff's ability to sit on a folding seat.
- r. In the accessible guestroom, #103, an appropriate size the roll-in shower in not provided in the accessible bathroom. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- s. In guestroom #103, which hotel deemed an accessible guestroom, the shower spray unit in the roll-in shower does not have an on/off control with a non-positive shut-off. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- t. In guestroom #103, which hotel deemed an accessible guestroom, the shower spray unit in the roll-in shower is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 806.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff to access the facility.
- u. An accessible mean of entry is not provided to access the spa. This is in violation of section 242.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to use the lift; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.
- v. The hotel discriminated against the plaintiff for not providing independent access to the spa thereby denying the plaintiff the ability to use of the spa in the same manner as hotel's able guests. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.302 & §36.304.

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- w. The hooks in the Fitness Center are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 308 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. This condition denied the Plaintiff access to use the hooks; 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202, §36.304.
- x. A maneuvering clearance is not provided to exit the laundry room. This is in violation of section 404.2.4 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the Plaintiff to exit the facility.
- y. In the pool toilet compartment, the door swings into the clear floor space. This is in violation of section 603.2.3 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff entry into the compartment.
- z. An appropriate transfer shower is not provided in the pool bathroom. This is in violation of sections 608 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304. This condition denied the plaintiff use of the shower.
- aa. The signage on the door is on the pull side of the lobby bathroom door. This is in violation of section 703.4.2 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.304.
- bb. In the lobby toilet room, the mirrors are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 603.3 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the Plaintiff to access the facility.
- cc. The accessible toilet compartment in the lobby toilet room does not have appropriate grab bars by the water closet. This is in violation of section 604.5 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- dd. An appropriate clearance is not provided around the water closet. This is in violation of section 604.3.1 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- ee. Access to the baby changer is out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 309 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the Plaintiff to access the facility independently.

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- ff. A door pull is not provided on both sides of the accessible stall door. This is in violation of section 604.8.1.2 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design: 28 CFR §36.304. This condition made it difficult for the plaintiff to access the facility.
- gg. Items in the Pavilion Pantry are out of reach to a person in a wheelchair. This is in violation of section 309 of the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. 28 CFR §36.201, §36.202 & §36.304. This condition denied the Plaintiff to access the facility independently.
- 11. All of the foregoing cited violations are violations of both the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines (ADAAG) and the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, as adopted by the Department of Justice.
- 12. The discriminatory violations described in Paragraph 10 are not an exclusive list of the Defendant's ADA violations. Plaintiff requires the inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. The individual Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly-situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of the Defendant's facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by the Defendant because of the Defendant's ADA violations, as set forth above. The individual Plaintiff, and all others similarly-situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, the Plaintiff requires an inspection of the Defendant's place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 13. Defendant have discriminated against the individual Plaintiff by denying her access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of its place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42

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USC § 12181 *et seq.* and 28 CFR. 36.302 *et seq.* Furthermore, the Defendant continue to discriminate against the Plaintiff, and all those similarly-situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- 14. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Considering the balance of hardships between the Plaintiff and Defendant, a remedy in equity is warranted. Furthermore, the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses from the Defendant pursuant to 42 USC § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
- 15. Defendant is required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled, when such removal is readily achievable for its place of public accommodation that has existed prior to January 26, 1992, 28 CFR 36.304(a); in the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendant's place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then the Defendant is required to ensure to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use walkers and wheelchairs, 28 CFR 36.402; and finally, if the Defendant's facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then the Defendant's facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.

- 16. Notice to Defendant is not required as a result of the Defendant's failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendant have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff or waived by the Defendant.
- Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require the Defendant to alter the The Hilton Garden Inn Lancaster to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to the Plaintiff and all other persons with disabilities as defined by the ADA; or by closing the facility until such time as the Defendant cure its violations of the ADA. The Order shall further require the Defendant to maintain the required assessable features on an ongoing basis.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that the Defendant at the commencement of the subject lawsuit are in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC § 12181 et seq.
- b. Injunctive relief against the Defendant including an order to make all readily achievable alterations to the facility; or to make such facility readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA; and to require the Defendant to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities; and by failing to take such steps that may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

- c. An award of attorney's fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42
 USC § 12205.
- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Dated: May _______, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Dessen, Esq. (I.D. 17627)

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and

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lfuller@fullerfuller.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Helen Swartz

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: c/o Lawrence A. Fuller, 12000 Biscayne Blvd., N. Miami, FL 33181
Address of Defendant: Granite Properties, 2294 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Hilton Garden Inn, 101 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: PA Judge; Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No ✓ I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.
DATE: MAY 19, ZoZ1 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)
A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Personal Question Cases 9. All other Diversity Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases 12. Airplane Personal Injury 13. Assault, Defamation 14. Marine Personal Injury 15. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 16. Other Perso
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability 9. Products Liability 9. Products Liability 9. Pro
□ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts □ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts □ 2. FELA □ 2. Airplane Personal Injury □ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury □ 3. Assault, Defamation □ 4. Antitrust □ 4. Marine Personal Injury □ 5. Patent □ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury □ 6. Labor-Management Relations □ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): □ 7. Civil Rights □ 7. Products Liability □ 8. Habeas Corpus □ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos □ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases □ 9. All other Diversity Cases □ (Please specify): □ □ 1. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify):

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

HELEN SWARTZ, Individually,		
v.	CIVIL ACTION NO.	
GRANITE PROPERTIES		

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

	58-1400 hone	215-658-0747 215-564-2879 FAX Number	ddessen@dms-lawyer.com E-Mail Address			
<i>M</i> Date	at lyrorl	David S. Dessen Attorney-at-law	<u>Plaintiff</u> Attorney for			
(f)	Standard Managem	ent – Cases that do not fall int	to any one of the other tracks.	(X	()	
(e)	Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)					
(d)	Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					
(c)	Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rul					
(b)	Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.					
(a)	Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.					